

this country, true to the challenges of our time? We could bring more harmony and a stronger sense of community to our people. What is it, exactly?

And I think what it was is that he found a way to live in Washington and work in politics and still be exactly the way he would have been if he'd been here in Bowling Green running a hardware store. And this country works well when people in Washington treat each other the way they would have to treat each other if they were living in Bowling Green. And it doesn't work very well when everybody up there thinks, "Oh, this is a different place, and we have to treat each other differently, and we have to muscle each other around, and we have to posture rather than produce." And we're all so worried because we're bound to be misunderstood, being filtered to 250-plus million people, so that all of our positions on complicated issues get simplified and often distorted.

But somehow, Bill Natcher just had enough internal strength and coherence. Maybe he was just enough old-fashioned that he literally was able to live every day as he would have lived if he'd been here all the time. That was the beauty of his legacy. And if the rest of us can remember that about him, even if we miss a few votes or have to go out and raise campaign contributions, if we can just imagine the roots that we had, the childhood friends that we had, who always reminded us of our foibles as well as our strengths, if we can remember what the church choir sounds like on Sunday, even on the Sundays when we don't show up, and every day imagine that we were living where the people who sent us to Washington still live, then we could do something really precious for Bill Natcher. We could do for the American people what he would have done had he lived another 84 years.

God bless you, Mr. Natcher, and thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3 p.m. at Eastwood Baptist Church. In his remarks, he referred to Rev. Paul M. Welch, pastor, Eastwood Baptist Church; Rev. Richard W. Bridges, pastor, First Baptist Church, Bowling Green, KY; and Top Orendorf, who delivered the eulogy of friendship.

**Proclamation 6663—National
Former Prisoner of War
Recognition Day, 1994**
April 6, 1994

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

The Armed Forces of the United States of America have faced hostile actions in every decade of this century. Over 200,000 American service members are currently serving overseas, many in situations where armed conflict is an ever-present possibility. Recent events in Somalia and continuing peacekeeping operations in Bosnia and elsewhere keep us fully mindful of the high risks that even humanitarian missions entail.

Over the more than two hundred years of our Independence, thousands of Americans have fallen into the hands of our enemies. Many did not survive the ordeal. Many who did return from captivity had suffered unrelenting indignities, physical and psychological abuse, and unspeakable torture.

Despite deprivation and suffering inflicted by their captors, these brave Americans persevered, maintained their honor, and kept faith with each other and with the American people. In the Congress, in State and local government, and in civic organizations across the Nation, former prisoners of war still keep faith with America through their continued service in positions of leadership and trust.

These men and women rank with our greatest patriots; no group of citizens is more deserving of remembrance and special recognition than our former prisoners of war.

The Congress, by Public Law 103-60, has designated April 9, 1994, as "National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day" and has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of the occasion.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim April 9, 1994, as National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day. I urge all American citizens to join in honoring members of the Armed Forces of the United States who have been held as prisoners of war. I also call upon Federal, State,

and local government officials and private organizations to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this sixth day of April, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and eighteenth.

William J. Clinton

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NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on April 8.

Remarks on Arrival in Topeka, Kansas

April 7, 1994

Thank you, Governor Finney, for your friendship, your leadership, and your kind remarks, and for your belief that every American and every Kansan ought to have health care that can never be taken away. Thank you, Congressman Slattery, for your long personal friendship and your support and for being such a strong voice in the Congress not only for fiscal responsibility but for basic sanity in our national policies.

Ladies and gentlemen, I'm glad to be back in Kansas. I want to thank Major General Rueger for welcoming me, and Colonel Dewayne Ellinson. I want to thank the people who helped to put this event together today, the carpenters local, the floorlayers local. I want to thank the Topeka High School Band over there and the cheerleaders and all those who are cheering. The people who are here from Pauline South Elementary School, thank you for coming. I want to thank the members of the National Guard and the police officers and others who made this day possible. I also want to acknowledge in the audience today the presence of the first American woman to be the Treasurer of the United States, Georgia Neese Gray. How are you, ma'am? God bless you for being here. I want to thank your Lieutenant Governor, your attorney general, your State treasurer, your local mayor, and the chairman of the Democratic Party for meeting me here at the

airport. But mostly I just want to tell you it's nice to be back in Kansas.

You know, since Jim was kind enough to mention the basketball game, you all know that for most of my public life I didn't live in Washington, DC. I was the Governor of one of your neighboring States. I lived and worked in an atmosphere very much like the way you all live and work. And I didn't understand what I often saw in Washington, where every position was pushed to its logical extreme, whether left or right, where it seemed that every debate took on more rhetoric than reality and shed more heat than light, where people seemed to be debating whether the Government could do everything or the Government had to do nothing, where people were either told they were on their own or not challenged to assume any responsibility for their own future.

I ran for President because that didn't make much sense to me, because I thought we ought to come together as a people, we ought to bridge the lines that are dividing us, and we ought to move to the 21st century together, recognizing that Government cannot solve all the problems but that we have a Government to discharge those responsibilities which have to be done by all of us together through our elected officials. I believed then and I believe even more strongly today that instead of paralyzing extremism, what this country needs is moderate, aggressive progressivism of people who are dedicated to getting together and getting things done. Cut down on the rhetoric, turn up the action, put people first, and move the country forward.

Now, there has been a lot of rhetoric about the deficit and how terrible it was, but it tripled in the last 3 years. Instead of that, we have adopted an aggressive economic program designed to reduce the deficit, hold down interest rates, increase investment, and get growth back into this economy. In the past 14 months, the American economy has produced 2.5 million private sector jobs, twice as many as were produced in the previous 4 years. That's the kind of action I went to Washington to take.

I have asked the United States Congress to pass a new budget that cuts spending in 300 different areas, eliminates 100 different